

(b) Was he asked to provide funds for the work in the P. W. D. Budget for 1100 M. E.?

(c) At what stage does the matter stand at present?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): (a) On the 8th August, 1925.

(b) Yes.

(c) The estimate is under check in the Chief Engineer's Office.

MR. S. GNANA JOSHUA (*Nominated*): With regard to part (a), I submit that it is seen, from the Government order issued to the Parish Priest of Veli, that the Chief Engineer was asked to submit an estimate for a foot bridge on the 21st June 1924 and not on the 8th August 1925 as is seen from the answer.

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): The Parish priest was informed on the 21st June 1924 but the estimate was called for only on the 8th August 1925.

MR. S. GNANA JOSHUA (*Nominated*): In view of the many cases of tragic death, by drowning, that have taken place in the canal during rainy season, as reported to Government by the Parish Priest, for want of a foot bridge, will the Government be pleased to pass orders for the construction and completion of the bridge before the close of the current Malabar year?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): The work has been put off since funds were not available. If funds are available, the work will be taken up.

MR. S. GNANA JOSHUA (*Nominated*): It is a matter of life and death to the parishioners. Many deaths have occurred already which could have been prevented if there were a foot bridge at the locality.

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): The matter will be referred to the Chief Engineer and the needful done.

Expenditure on Irrigation and Communications in preference to that on the Agricultural and Industrial Departments.

45. MR. G. RAMAN MENON (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): Are not the Government aware, from petitions from the people and representations of the members of the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly and of the Legislative Council, that the agricultural produce of the State and the income of the people can be increased to a considerable extent, if Government spend more money on protective and productive irrigation works and communications in North and Central Travancore?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): Government are aware that irrigation is capable of improvement; and they have taken steps with a view to such improvement. A temporary staff for the investigation of irrigation possibilities has been sanctioned and proposals for its entertainment are awaited from the Chief Engineer. In regard to communications, all possible steps are being taken to improve them. In the Budget for the current year, the provision for communications is 76 per cent. of the total allotment for works and repairs, and

the provision for Central and North Travancore is about 74 per cent. of the total allotment under communications.

Appointment of a Committee to report on Administrative Reforms.

46. **MR. G. RAMAN MENON** (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): Will the Government be pleased to appoint a committee with a non-official majority to formulate, and report on, the reforms in the general policy and the administration of the Government that are found to be urgently necessary?

MR. K. NARAYANAN PANDALAY (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*): This is not a question asking for information and should properly be the subject of a resolution.

Development of Fisheries.

47. **MR. X. G. LOPEZ** (*Nominated*): (a) Will the Government be pleased to state whether the possibilities of fisheries in the State have been investigated?

(b) If so, will they be pleased to state whether such investigations have been embodied in any form accessible to the public?

(c) If not, do not the Government think it high time to take up the scheme at once?

MR. N. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government on other duty*):

(a) The possibilities of developing the fisheries of the State are being investigated, to the extent of funds and trained hands available. The present working of the Fishery Section of the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries is based on the results of the investigations conducted so far.

(b) The results of the investigations hitherto made have been published in the annual Administration Reports and in leaflets and bulletins which are available to the public.

(c) In view of the answer to part (a), this question does not arise.

Lease of Lime-shells.

48. **MR. X. G. LOPEZ** (*Nominated*): (a) Will the Government be pleased to state whether the lease of lime-shells affects the shells washed ashore?

(b) Will they be pleased to state how far the sea-beds at Kadiapattanam and Vizhinjam are intended to extend for the purpose of the lease of lime-shells?

(c) What is the average number of *paras* and the average price at which Government have been buying lime per year before and after the lease arrangement?

MR. N. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government on other duty*): (a) The lease of lime-shells does not affect the shells washed ashore by the waves.

(b) The area leased out for the collection of lime-shells at Kadiapattanam and Vizhinjam includes only those portions of the sea-bed which fall within the territorial waters of Travancore.